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Directorate of
Intelligence

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Terrorism Review

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14 December 1989

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Note: The next issue of the *Terrorism Review* will be 11 January 1990.

This review is published biweekly by the Directorate of Intelligence. Other elements of the CIA as well as other agencies of the US Intelligence Community are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor.

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Focus

Middle Eastern Terrorism: Retrospect and Prospect b3

International terrorist incidents perpetrated by Middle Eastern groups significantly increased during the last half of the 1980s, and, judging from developments in the last two years, we believe that the high rate will be sustained at least into the early 1990s. Although the partial statistics on incidents and casualties appear to reflect a downturn recently, strong indications continue that the risk to Western, Israeli, and moderate Arab interests is as high as ever. The Palestinian issue remains unsettled, and no near-term hope for resolution exists by virtue of the *intifadah* or the US-PLO dialogue; Lebanon remains an arena for factional fighting, terrorist training, and regional states' recruitment and development of terrorist surrogates; and Iranians continue to view terrorism as a significant policy instrument. b3

The 1980s

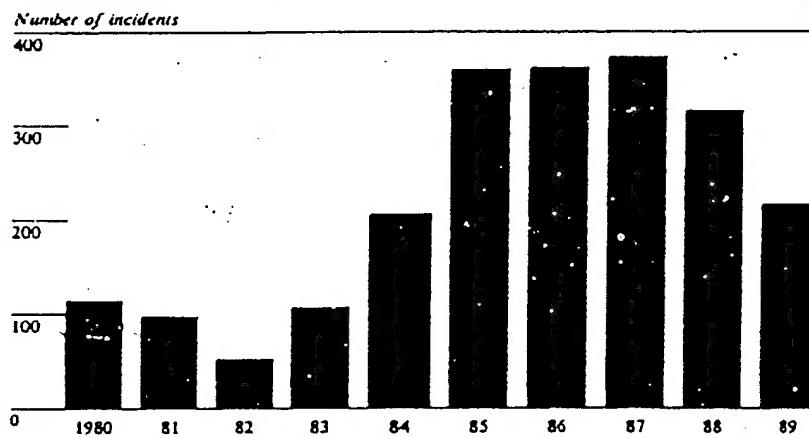
Although terrorism has been a factor in the Middle East throughout the 1980s, a review of statistics indicates that a sharp upsurge occurred in 1985. Several developments contributed to the range and destructiveness of terrorism in 1985 and subsequent years:

- Libya, Syria, and Iran gave unprecedented backing to terrorist groups and, in some cases, actively participated in terrorist operations and antidissident attacks.
 - The Abu Nidal organization (ANO) grew more active operationally than ever before.
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- The Cairo Declaration, in which the PLO announced a ban on terrorism outside Israel and the occupied territories, aroused even greater hostility among those who rejected any sign of softness toward Israel.
 - Despite Western efforts to bring pressure on state supporters of terrorism, displaced groups were able to find new sponsors as circumstances required.
 - The radical Shia Hizballah organization, which had grown out of the Iranian revolution and gained impetus from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, had by mid-decade developed into a mature militia and terrorist organization. The group manifested its anti-Western policy not only through a series of hostage takings, hijackings, and bombings in the Middle East but also through bombings in Paris in 1985 and 1986. b3

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Figure 1
International Terrorist Incidents in the Middle East,
1980-September 1989



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State support, which was probably the most significant factor in the increase, continued to play an important—though less obvious—role in the latter half of the decade. [redacted] most regimes that sponsored or otherwise supported terrorism became less active or more discreet after 1986, largely in reaction to Western counterterrorism measures. Although economic and diplomatic sanctions—along with the US bombing of Tripoli in April 1986—did much to drive state support underground, it continued to be a major component of Middle Eastern terrorism. Iran and Libya directly backed terrorist operations, and Syria and Iraq continued to provide terrorist groups with financial and logistic assistance but rarely, if ever, became involved in operations. Other states, Algeria and South Yemen, allowed organizations that employed terrorism to move freely within their borders. [redacted] b3

Throughout the 1980s—and earlier—Middle Eastern terrorists and their surrogates had shown the capability to operate outside the region, especially in Western Europe. In the latter part of the decade, however, several radical groups showed that they could operate with a more nearly global capability:

- In 1988, an ANO gunman attacked an Alitalia crew bus at the airport in Bombay, India. Two years earlier, ANO operatives attempted to hijack a Pan Am aircraft in Karachi, Pakistan—an effort that left 21 persons dead and more than a hundred injured. [redacted] the group also expanded its activities to East Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

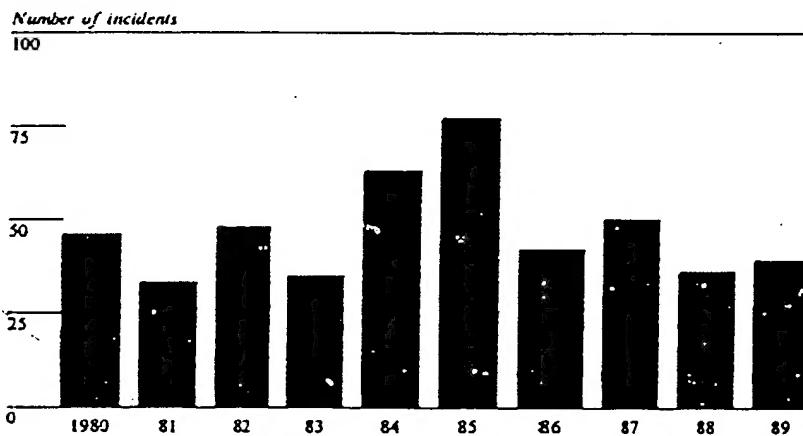
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Figure 2
**Worldwide Terrorist Incidents Resulting From
Middle East Spillover, 1980-September 1989**



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- During the period 1986-88, attacks we believe to have been sponsored by Libya occurred in Peru, Colombia, and Costa Rica, as well as in the Middle East, Western Europe, and Africa.
- In 1988, Hizballah hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner out of Bangkok, Thailand, and in 1988 and 1989 the group was linked to operational activity in Ivory Coast and elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 1988, the Japanese Red Army (JRA), based in the Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon, continued to demonstrate its operational capability in Western Europe and Asia; information from the arrest of a JRA operative in New Jersey indicated that the group was planning an attack in North America and had the capability to travel extensively in the United States.

The most dangerous development by the end of the decade was the growing liaison between Iran and radical Palestinian groups, a relationship that complements Tehran's ties to its surrogate in Lebanon, Hizballah. The liaison was most likely responsible for the bombing of Pan Am 103 in December 1988 and for other, less destructive attacks against Western interests in Europe. (b3)

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Looking Ahead

In our view, the links between Iran and the radical Palestinians will pose the biggest threat against Western and moderate Arab interests in the decade ahead. Other threats and terrorism-related issues to watch in the 1990s include:

- The threat from radical Palestinian groups and Shia organizations based in Lebanon. Hijackings and continuing threats against Western hostages—and the possible seizing of additional ones—are likely as radicals try to influence Western governments' foreign policies, to make financial gain, and to secure the release of imprisoned terrorist group members:
 - Growing contacts among radical organizations in Lebanon may lead to joint operations and expanded sharing of intelligence, training facilities, and infrastructures outside the region.
 - Expanding terrorist operational capabilities in Scandinavia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America may result in further attacks against Western interests.
 - The US-PLO dialogue may result in greater violence by anti-Arafat groups if perceived as a success, or in fragmentation or radicalization of the PLO if perceived as a failure.
 - The course of the *Intifadah* probably will affect the operational agenda of several groups vying to influence its direction.
- State support for terrorism.
 - *Iran*. In addition to forging closer links to radical Palestinian groups for use as surrogates to strike Western interests, Iran is likely to continue to seek political and financial gains through its role in influencing the holding of Western hostages in Lebanon.
 - *Libya*. Qadhafi has recently shown signs of dropping his facade of moderation in coordinating and facilitating terrorism in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Central America and the Caribbean. Like several other state supporters, Libya is a source of concern for possible transfer of chemical and biological weapons capabilities to terrorist groups.
 - *Syria*. Damascus is likely to continue providing training and other facilities for terrorist groups in Syria and Syrian-controlled territory in Lebanon but will avoid a direct role in their operations.
 - *Iraq*. Baghdad may decide to rebuild its terrorist capability as a countermeasure to Iran and Syria and to increase Iraqi influence among factions in Lebanon.
 - *South Yemen*. Aden will probably supply more than political support to radical Palestinian factions and continue to provide safehaven.
 - *Algeria*. Algiers is likely to continue provision of safehaven for terrorist groups. b3

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Highlights *b3*

Significant Developments

Western Europe

Austria-Iran

Iranians Charged With Murder

Austria's investigation into the assassination of three Kurdish dissidents in Vienna on 13 July has prompted its Ministry of Interior to charge three Iranians with murder. Ballistic reports led investigators to conclude that the Iranians present at a meeting with the dissidents at the time of the attack were the perpetrators.

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[REDACTED], Amir Mansur Bosorgian, the only suspect currently in Austria, has taken refuge at the Iranian Embassy. Mustafa Haji fled Austria immediately after the assassinations, and Mohammad Djafari-Sahroodi, injured in the attack, was granted permission to leave Vienna by Austrian officials.

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France-Spain

Discovery of ETA Cache

French police discovered a large arms cache belonging to Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) in two apartments in southern France on 1 December. Police arrested several Spanish Basque fugitives during the raids. The cache contained 150 kilograms of Amonal explosives, several dozen 250-gram packages of black powder, 60 alarm clocks, 100 detonators, antiautomobile explosive charges, grenades with ETA markings, and other munitions.

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[REDACTED] a loss of this magnitude will undoubtedly adversely affect ETA operations in the near term.

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Turkey

US Embassy Boat Attacked

A US Embassy boat was firebombed near Istanbul in early December, causing heavy damage but no injuries. A group called Warriors of the 16 June Organization claimed responsibility and threatened further action against US interests. The group is a new formation of Partisan Yolu, which disbanded last year. Partisan Yolu, in turn, was formed from the Turkish People's Liberation Party, a prominent terrorist organization in the 1970s that attacked several US business facilities in Turkey. The chief targets of the violent Communist splinter group are US, Israeli, and NATO facilities. [REDACTED] the group is recruiting members from high schools and universities. [REDACTED] the 16 [REDACTED] b (3), b1
June Organization is responsible for a rash of bank bombings on 6 November in Istanbul. [REDACTED] b3

West Germany

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RAF Assassinate Bank Chairman

The Red Army Faction (RAF) claimed responsibility for the bombing that killed Deutsche Bank Chairman Alfred Herrhausen and injured the driver of his armored car on 30 November. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the bomb may have been a shaped charge concealed in the saddlebags of a bicycle propped against a road marker near Herrhausen's residence outside Frankfurt. [REDACTED] the bomb was wired to an electrical device hidden in nearby bushes and triggered by a light beam that spanned the road. [REDACTED]

The RAF has been quiescent since its attempted assassination of West German Finance Ministry official Hans Tietmeyer in September 1988. [REDACTED]

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The technology used

in the Herrhausen assassination appears to be more sophisticated than that used in previous RAF attacks; it is not known whether the RAF acquired the technology from another terrorist group. [REDACTED] b3

Middle East

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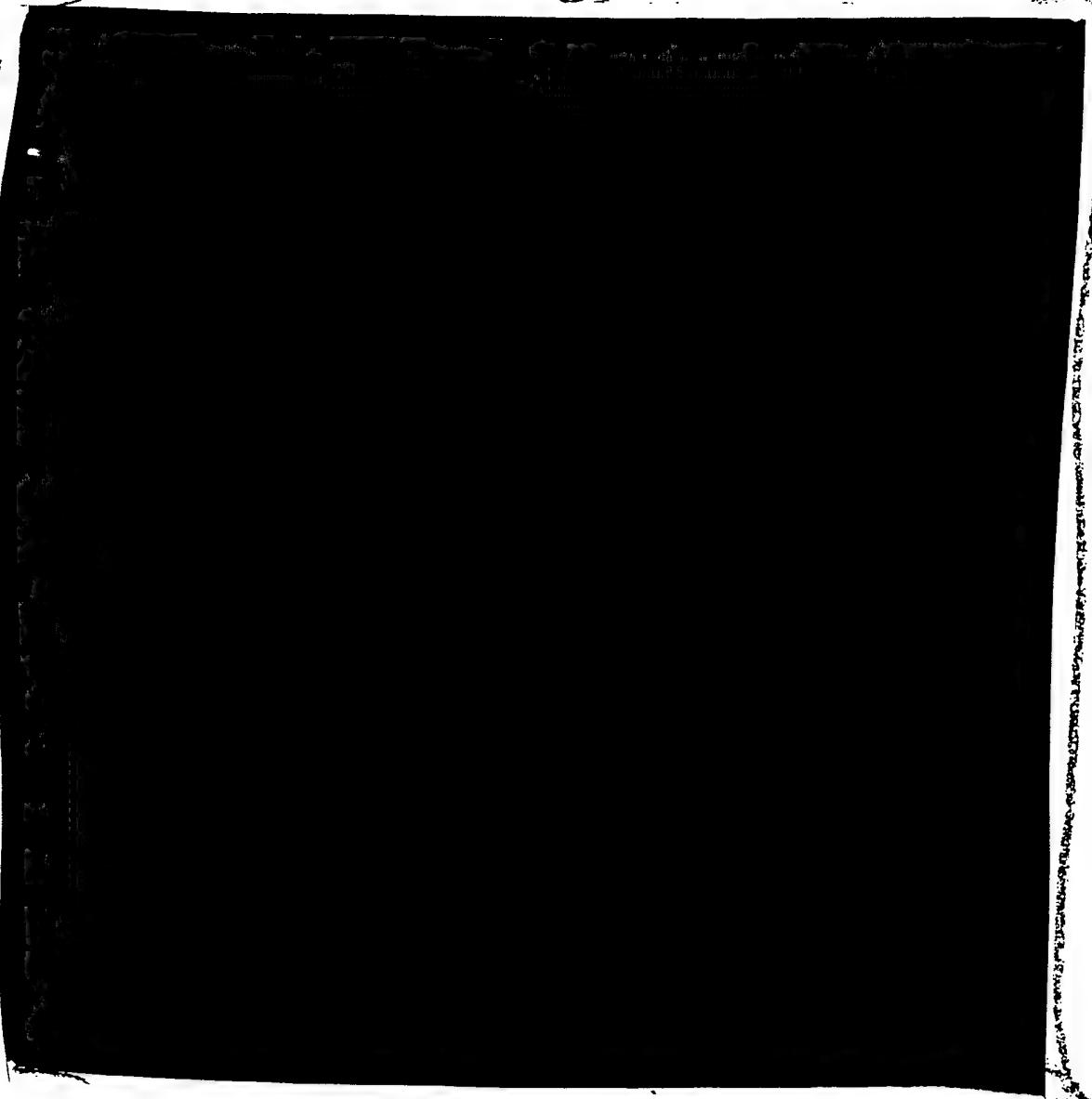
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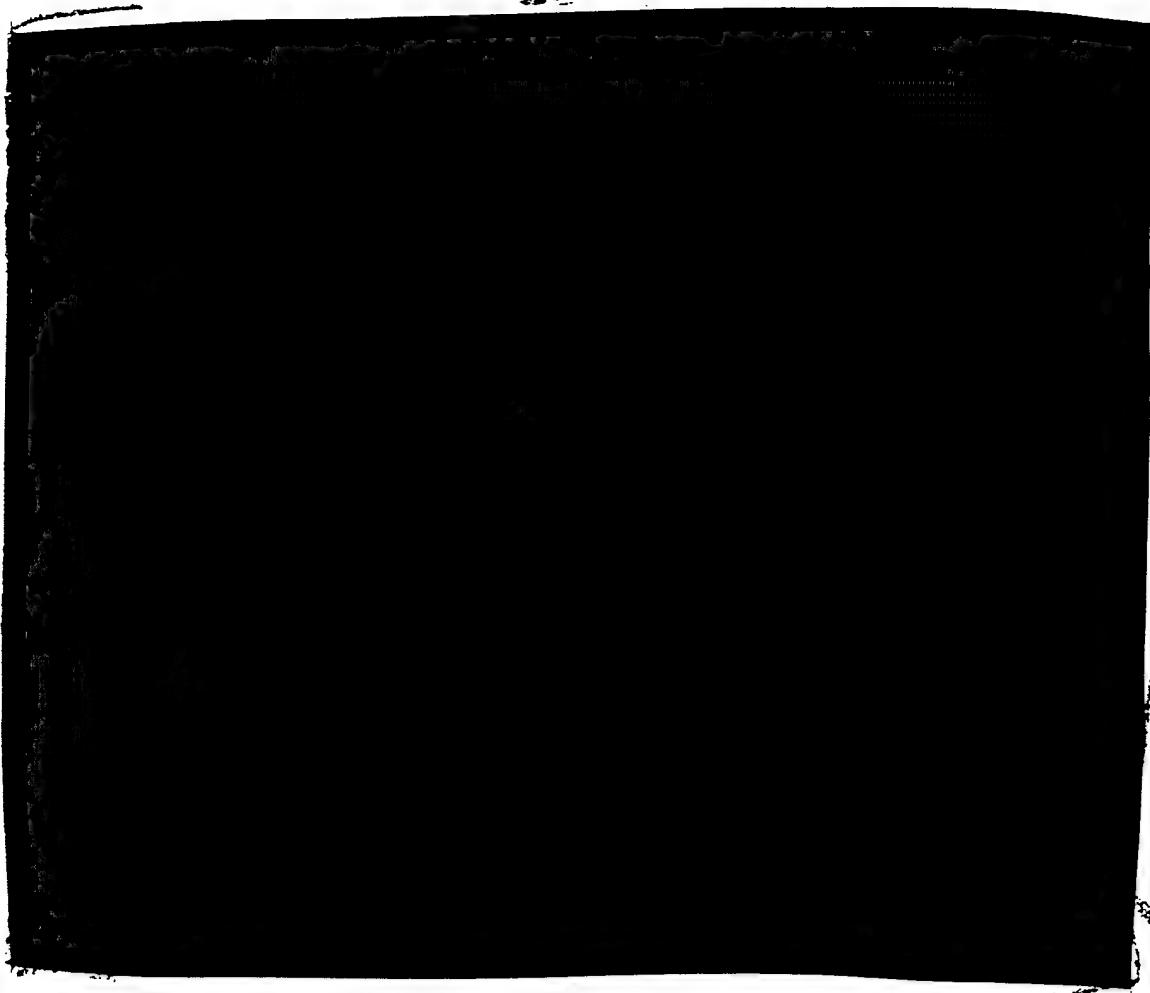
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Palestinian Factions: Facing
Financial Difficulties *b3*

During the past year a number of signs have indicated that Palestinian military and political groups face shrinking revenues as their main sponsor nations have failed to provide promised support. Arab governments and Iran—which have traditionally provided nearly all the annual income of these groups—are reevaluating their assistance as dropping oil revenues force tighter budgets. In addition, Palestinian efforts to become less dependent on these governments—through running small businesses, making investments, and fundraising—have achieved only minimal success.

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[REDACTED] the developments we have observed provide a reliable indication of the funding problems that most of them are facing. Moreover,

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[REDACTED] most of the cuts are being absorbed primarily in administrative and personnel areas and that the groups are protecting their military and terrorist operations.

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Diminishing State Support ...

... To Hardline Groups. Libya's reduction of financial support has been the single largest cause of the hardline groups' financial problems.

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Iran and Syria have not made up the shortfall.

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Coping With Less Financial Support

The failure of the Palestinian groups to establish their financial independence in the past has left them vulnerable to the falloff of state funding. Most groups have failed owing to either poor planning or lack of initial capital.

the Palestinian groups are able to generate more than a very small portion of their normal financial needs through dividends or interest from their investments. b3

Cutting Costs. The decline in funding is forcing some hardline groups to make cuts in personnel, administrative overhead, and political operations.

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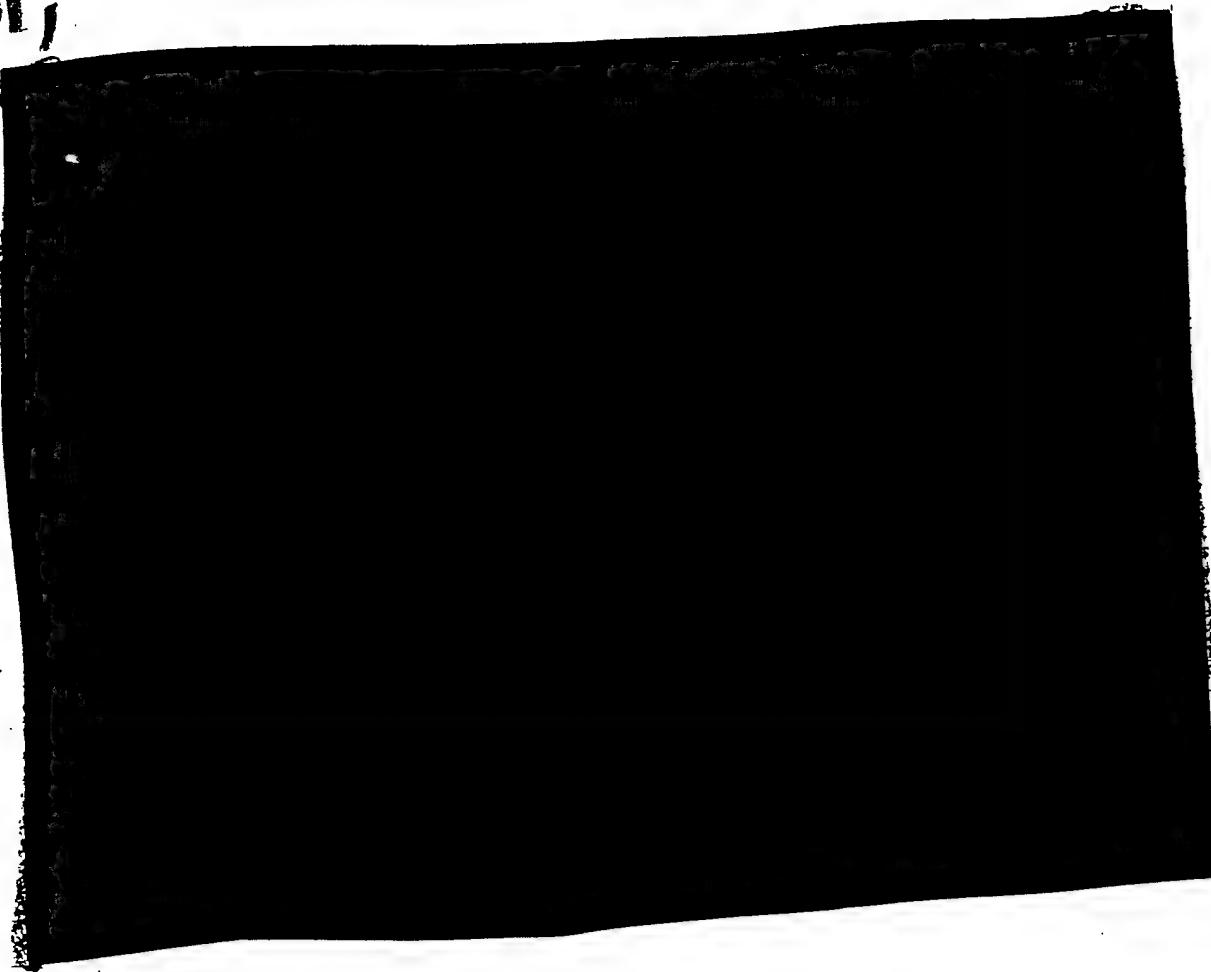
Outlook

The financial situation of these Palestinian groups probably will continue to decline during the next year, owing to waning state support. [REDACTED]

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The Terrorism Diary for February ~~b3~~ b3

Below is a compendium of February dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event should not by itself be construed to suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event. b3

- 1 February 1979** *Iran. Return of Ayatollah Khomeini to Iran from exile in Paris.*
- 1 February 1984** *India. Kashmir separatist leader Maqbool Butt executed.*
- 1 February 1985** *India. Kashmir Liberation Front sets off two bombs to commemorate Butt's execution.*
- 3 February 1963** *Iraq. Anniversary of Ba'ath Revolution.*
- 4 February 1948** *Sri Lanka. Independence Day.*
- 4 February 1961** *Angola. Beginning of armed struggle against Portugal.*
- 4 February 1979** *Iran. Revolution Day.*
- 5 February 1960** *Burma. Kachin Independence Army (KIA) Revolution Day.*
- 6 February 1840** *New Zealand. Waitangi Day (national day).*
- 6 February 1981** *Pakistan. Founding of Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD).*
- 6 February 1984** *Lebanon. Fall of West Beirut to Muslim militias.*
- 7 February 1973** *Grenada. Independence Day.*
- 8 February 1963** *Iraq. Revolution Day.*
- 8 February 1982** *Iran. Death of Musa Khiaban, mujahedin leader.*
- 11 February** *Japan. National Foundation Day.*
- 12 February 1947** *Burma. Union Day.*
- 13 February 1961** *Zaire. Death of Patrice Lumumba.*
- 13 February 1975** *Cyprus. Declaration of establishment of Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.*
- 14 February 1979** *Iran. Attack on US Embassy in Tehran. One foreign employee was killed and a Marine security guard was wounded in the attack. The Embassy was briefly occupied, and the US Ambassador was briefly held by the attackers.*

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- 15 February 1966** *Colombia*. Death of National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla leader and priest Camilo Torres.
- 15 February 1980** *Syria*. National Labor Day.
- 16 February 1918** *Lithuanian SSR*. Independence Day.
- 17 February 1979** *Vietnam*. Invasion by Chinese troops.
- 18 February 1965** *The Gambia*. Independence Day.
- 19 February 1947** *Poland*. People's republic established.
- 19 February 1952** *Nepal*. King Tribhuan Memorial Day.
- 19 February 1980** *Egypt, Israel*. Exchange of ambassadors.
- 22 February 1948** *Romania*. Founding of Romanian Workers' Party.
- 22 February 1969** *Palestinians*. Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine founded.
- 22 February 1972** *Qatar*. Coup d'état that brought Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani to power.
- 22 February 1979** *St. Lucia*. Independence Day.
- 23 February 1970** *Guyana*. Republic Day.
- 23 February 1984** *Brunei*. National Day.
- 24 February 1948** *Czechoslovakia*. First Communist government.
- 24 February 1966** *Ghana*. Liberation Day. Overthrow of Nkrumah.
- 25 February 1948** *Kuwait*. Independence Day.
- 25 February 1980** *Suriname*. Day of Liberation and Renewal.
- 25 February 1986** *Philippines*. Corazon Aquino inaugurated as president.
- 27 February 1844** *Dominican Republic*. Independence Day.
- 27 February 1976** *Western Sahara*. Anniversary of Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. Polisario government-in-exile.
- 28 February 1977** *El Salvador*. Leftists demonstrating against alleged election fraud in San Salvador killed by security forces; Popular League of 28 February (LP-28) takes its name from this event.

The above information is [REDACTED]

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Chronology of Terrorism—1989

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Below are described selected noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists or the use of terrorist tactics. These events have occurred or come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included.

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Western Europe

9 November

Turkey: Pipe bomb detonates at US Air Force commissary in Izmir. No group has claimed responsibility.

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Spain: Passing motorist injured as device on national policeman's car dislodges and explodes on road. The Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) claimed responsibility.

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13 November

Turkey: Bomb damages office of ruling Motherland Party headquarters in Istanbul. No group has claimed responsibility.

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15 November

Spain: Bomb kills alleged drug dealer in Bilbao. ETA has claimed responsibility.

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Latin America

20 November

Peru: Unidentified attackers kill American journalist in Uchiza. ~~b3~~ b3

Honduras: Terrorists bomb police station in San Pedro Sula, injuring three policemen. No one has claimed responsibility. ~~b3~~ b3

21 November

Chile: Lautaro Popular Rebel Forces firebomb offices of TV Cables Company in Santiago, destroying them. ~~b3~~ b3

22 November

Argentina: Unknown terrorists bomb Santa Rita church in Boulogne, San Isidro County. The explosion caused considerable damage. No one has claimed responsibility. ~~b3~~ b3

23 November

Colombia: Car bomb seriously damages church in Bogota. The bomb consisted of 15 kilograms of dynamite. No one has claimed responsibility. ~~b3~~ b3

Chile: Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front detonates four bombs in Santiago, killing one and injuring four. One of the bombs exploded at the Conchali Mormon Church. ~~b3~~ b3

24 November

Colombia: Army captures People's Liberation Army leader Jose Nemesio Quintero "Jairo," head of the Libardo Mora Front in Norte de Santander Department. ~~b3~~ b3

South/East Asia

16 November

Pakistan: In Lahore, across from Kotwali police station, bomb concealed in a fruit vendor's cart explodes, injuring vendor and passers-by. No one has claimed responsibility. ~~b3~~ b3

25 November

India: In Punjab, bomb kills store owner. No one has claimed responsibility. ~~b3~~ b3

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